

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/732,884

Examiner

John C. Hong

Applicant(s)

BLOCH ET AL.

Art Unit

3726

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 9/8/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-26.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 9/27/05
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Mark Elchuck on 9/27/05.

The application has been amended as follows:

claim 18, line 1, "The method os claim 18" has been changed to -- The method of claim 13--.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. he following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art fails to teach: Regarding Claim(s) 1, a method of delivering a fastener to a workpiece comprising the steps of : disposing an automated machine and a fastener feed unit adjacent a first surface of the workpiece such that an electromagnetic clamping device of the automated machine is against the first surface; transmitting a signal to a control system of the fastener feed unit, the signal comprising a request for at least one fastener; positioning an unloading mechanism adjacent a fastener storage device within the fastener feed unit; removing at least one fastener from the fastener storage device and securing the fastener within the unloading mechanism; positioning the unloading mechanism adjacent at least one delivery conduit, and causing the control system to deliver the fastener through the

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delivery conduit, through the automated machine, and into the workpiece; Regarding Claim(s) 5, a method of delivering a fastener to a workpiece comprising the steps of : using the computer controlled machine to generate a locating signal; positioning a hand held device manipulated by an individual on a second side of said work piece; using the locating signal to enable the individual to position the hand held device at the desired location; using the computer controlled machine to generate a magnetic signal that clamps the hand held device to the second side of the work piece at the desired location, and using the computer controlled machine to perform the work operation at the desired location; Regarding Claim(s) 13, moving the machine to a desired location on the work piece where a work operation is to be performed on the work piece, delivering a desired type of fastener from a fastener supply source to the machine, and positioning a hand held device manipulated by an individual on a second side of the work piece; and communicating between the machine and the hand held device such that both are positioned in alignment with one another at said desired location, and when both of the machine and the hand held device are positioned at the desired location, using the tool of the machine and the hand held device to cooperatively perform the work operation on the work piece; Regarding Claim(s) 19, communicating between the computer controlled machine and an implement supply source, wherein a specific type of implement is requested by the computer controlled machine from the implement supply source, and wherein the implement supply source maintains a reservoir of differing types of implements, delivering at least one of the specific type of implement from the implement supply source to the tool of the computer controlled

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machine when requested by the computer controlled machine, communicating locating signals between the computer controlled machine and an operator manipulated tool positioned on a second side of the work piece; using the locating signals to align the tool of the computer controlled machine with the operator manipulated tool at the desired location on the work piece, and using the tool of the computer controlled machine in concert with the operator manipulated tool to supply the specific type of implement to the work piece at the desired location ;

Regarding Claim(s) 23, d) communicating between the computer controlled machine and an implement supply source, wherein a specific type of implement is requested by the computer controlled machine from the implement supply source, and wherein the implement supply source maintains a reservoir of differing types of implements, delivering the specific type of implement from the implement supply source to said tool of the computer controlled machine when requested by the computer controlled machine, communicating locating signals between the computer controlled machine and an operator manipulated tool positioned on a second surface of the work piece; using the locating signals to facilitate cooperation between the tool of the computer controlled machine and the operator manipulated tool in performing the work operation on the work piece at the desired location on the work piece; and using the tool of the computer controlled machine in concert with the operator manipulated tool to supply the specific type of implement to the work piece at the desired location in combination with the other elements of the claimed invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

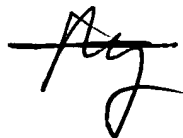
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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John C. Hong whose telephone number is 571-272-4529. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F(07:00-16:30)First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bryant can be reached on 571-272-4526. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



John C. Hong
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3726

jh
September 19, 2005